


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1484

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE UNITED NATIONS REPORT CRITICIZING AS DELAYED AND INADEQUATE
GOVERNMENT EFFORTS AT RECONSTRUCTING AND REHABILITATING
COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY SUPER TYPHOON YOLANDA

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 9 provides: "The State shall promote a
2 just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and
3 free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full
4 employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all";

5 WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin* on 4 August 2015 reported that the United Nations (UN)
6 on August 1 scored the Philippine government for inadequate reconstruction and rehabilitation
7 efforts nearly two years after the country was hit by super typhoon Yolanda;

8 WHEREAS, thousands of typhoon victims have reportedly been relocated to evacuation
9 camps up to three times and remain in substandard housing, vulnerable to future typhoons;

10 WHEREAS, Secretary Corazon Soliman of the Department of Social Welfare and
11 Development (DSWD) reportedly admitted that some 2,000 survivors remain in bunkhouses,
12 which the UN claimed were poorly constructed;

13 WHEREAS, Soliman allegedly attributed the delay in the construction of permanent
14 homes to increased land prices and lack of power and running water in some areas due to the
15 local government's failure to pay utility bills;

16 WHEREAS, as of 31 December 2014, a total of ₱740 million has reportedly been
17 donated for typhoon Yolanda victims, while ₱160 billion has been allotted in the 2013 budget for
18 rebuilding in areas devastated by Yolanda;

1 WHEREAS, Malacañang also reportedly sought ₱18.9 billion in additional funds for a
2 Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan and ₱25.6 billion for housing, even after the
3 Commission on Audit (COA) reported in September 2014 that only ₱3.8 million had been spent
4 for aid and rehabilitation work in Eastern Visayas, and a total of ₱736 million in foreign
5 donations was sitting idly in DSWD bank accounts;

6 WHEREAS, reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in places ravaged by typhoon
7 Yolanda should be closely monitored in order to ensure transparent and accurate use of public
8 funds, including foreign donations;

9 WHEREAS, the welfare and safety risks to which victims of typhoon Yolanda are
10 exposed should be addressed with a sense of urgency;

11 WHEREAS, Congress, alongside its exercise of the power of the purse, should scrutinize
12 additional budget requests for post-Yolanda reconstruction and rehabilitation;

13 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
14 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the United Nations
15 report criticizing as delayed and inadequate government efforts at reconstructing and
16 rehabilitating communities affected by super typhoon Yolanda.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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